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DFB-33116  
1 Mar 54

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1  
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **DETROIT**

REPORT MADE AT <b>CLEVELAND</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>2-10-54</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>1-7, 23, 25, 27-54</b>	REPORT MADE BY <b>SA JAMES JOSEPH O'CONNOR, JR.</b>
TITLE/CHARACTER <b>VIOREL DONIS TRIFA, was. Vioral Trifa, Bishop Valerian</b>			CHARACTER OF CASE <b>INTERNAL SECURITY - RU</b>
<p><b>SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:</b></p> <p>Mrs. RACHEL THOMAS, Lockwood, Ohio, subject's cousin, advised she came to the U.S. in 1914, and that family contact to 1939, indicated that the subject had been educated in the strict Rumanian Orthodox Church. However, she advised that rumors existed after the Nazis took over Rumania, that the subject was an Iron Guardist. Mrs. THOMAS stated she first knew her cousin was in U.S. when his picture appeared in the Rumanian language newspaper "Solis." Contacts with him indicated only religious activity on TRIFA's part. Unable to furnish definite information regarding subject's past Iron Guard activities or present contacts in Toronto, Canada.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">- - -</p> <p><b>DETAILS:</b></p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">The title of this report is marked "Changed" to reflect the full name of the subject, VIOREL DONIS TRIFA, as provided by the subject's cousin, Mrs. RACHEL THOMAS, Lockwood, Ohio.</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;"><u>AT LOCKWOOD, OHIO</u></p> <p>RACHEL THOMAS, nee TRIFA, RD #1, Lockwood, Ohio, advised that she came to the United States in June, 1914, from Rumania, and was naturalized at Logan, West Virginia, in 1941. She stated that she has resided in the Warren, Ohio, area since September, 1941, and has been employed at Packard Electric Company, Division of General Motors Corporation since the Summer of 1946.</p>			
APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>[Signature]</i> #175 DFB-33116		SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	
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Mrs. THOMAS stated that she is a cousin of the subject and that their uncle, JOSEPH TRIFA, a minister in the Rumanian Orthodox Church, reared and educated VIOREL TRIFA, the subject, who has a middle name, <sup>DOMISIE</sup> DOMISIE, which is the Rumanian equivalent of DENNIS, in the strict Rumanian Orthodox Church rites. She stated that the subject, because of his inability to sing properly, was educated as a professor, in the Church as contrasted to a minister, whose duties would be teaching theology and Church liturgy. In 1939, she related that the Nazis, then in control of Sibui, Sibiu Rumania, killed TITO TRIFA, the son of JOSEPH TRIFA, in a program of religious suppression. TITO TRIFA had been educated with the subject in the Rumanian Church and was also a professor in that church. Mrs. THOMAS was unable to furnish any reason why the subject did not suffer the same fate, but that at that time, persistent rumors among the family both here and abroad, indicated that the subject had become associated with the Iron Guardists in his home country. She pointed out that her information was obtained from letters from Rumania and among family friends in America. These letters, however, ceased in 1939-1940, because of the Nazi and later, the Communistic pressure put on those persons remaining there, who contacted or received mail from the Western countries. The last letter she received from Rumania, was one from DAN TRIFA, another uncle, residing in the town of Certoge, Tudor, Rumania, advising that the subject at that time was continuing his education in Church matters. Mrs. THOMAS recalled that the subject was born on June 28, 1914, at Campena, Rumania, the first child and was believed to have received a Doctor's Degree from the University of Bucharest. She stated that she had no other information concerning the subject's activities within the Iron Guard movement, due to the fact that no active contact was maintained with members of the family in Rumania, after 1939.

Mrs. THOMAS related that she first knew that her cousin, the subject, was in America, when his picture appeared in the Rumanian language newspaper, "Solia," published in Cleveland, Ohio, indicating that TRIFA was a party in the Rumanian Orthodox Church disagreement over ruling rights. She advised that in March, 1952, she contacted the subject while he was working at "Solia." Since that time, she stated that she sees him occasionally and that sometime in the Summer of 1953, the subject told her that he had heard through Church sources that his brother, JOSEPH TRIFA, was shot by the present rulers of Rumania, for "political reasons." TRIFA advised Mrs. THOMAS that no one should attempt to contact relatives in the home country, for fear of reprisals on those people. The subject's residence at Vatra, Grass Lake, Michigan, according to Mrs. THOMAS, is to her knowledge, only the scene of religious activity, as the subject is attempting to translate the Rumanian catechism into English, with the help of Father ~~TRITZA~~ TRITZA, Cleveland, Ohio, Father ~~SATAHAN~~ SATALAN,

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New York City, and Father LAZAR, Gary, Indiana. She stated that she has no knowledge of the activities of MIHAIL VITKAZU and Reverend M. TICALA, in Toronto, Canada. She added that the Bishop's itinerary in regard to the Rumanian Church is published weekly in the "Solis," and of late, the subject has been in St. Louis, Missouri, New York City, Gary, Indiana, and Rhode Island, on Church business.

Mrs. THOMAS was of the opinion that the subject would not be Communistically inclined because of the religious training he has received, but that she has no definite information concerning TRIFA's connection with the Iron Guard movement in Rumania. She stated that if she should learn of any information in this regard, she will be glad to furnish such information to the FBI.

AT WARREN, OHIO

Sergeant VICTOR JOHNS, Warren Police Department, advised that he has no additional information relative to the subject at this time and that apparently the people of Rumanian descent in the Warren area have little interest in the present court battle. He did suggest that one OCTAVIAN THOMAS/ROPA, 1040 Meadowbrook Avenue, Warren, Ohio, may have pertinent information concerning the subject and would be cooperative.

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